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December 11, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Tuesday, December 9, 2003, on behalf of the Wireless Independent Group ("WIG"), undersigned counsel, along with Steve Palmer and Elizabeth Kohler, met with Commissioner Adelstein and Barry Ohlson to discuss the Joint Board's ongoing proceeding on universal service.

The discussion focused on service area redefinition and how the FCC's current rules regarding disaggregation of support rules provide incumbents with effective protection against new entrants receiving uneconomic levels of support. We also discussed the petition of Highland Cellular, Inc. for designation as an ETC in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In particular, we outlined why consumers are best served when an ETC serves throughout its licensed service area. We have enclosed copies of materials distributed at the meeting. In addition, following the meeting undersigned counsel provided Commissioner Adelstein with a white paper on service area redefinition, a copy of which is also enclosed.

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If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

/s/

David A. LaFuria

Enclosures

cc: Commissioner Adelstein
Barry Ohlson, Esq.